

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1-14 were previously cancelled.

Claims 15-21 stand rejected.

Claims 22-28 and 32 are withdrawn.

Claims 29-31, and 33-35 stand rejected.

Claims 36-38 are new claims added by this Amendment.

In the Claims:

35 USC 102(b) Rejections as Anticipated by US 5,273,120 to Chang

Claims 15-21, 29, 31, 33, and 34 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by US 5,273,120 to Chang. According to the Examiner, Chang '120 discloses a handle, a first handle connecting member, and a not parallel second handle connecting member.

Independent Claim 15 is amended herein to require “a first handle and a second handle” and that the “first handle is connected to the power tool housing via the first handle connecting member and the second handle connecting member” Furthermore, Claim 15 is amended to require that both the first and second vibration damping elements “rigidly mounted to the power tool housing”.

As previously argued, in Chang '120 neither of the handles (5 or 7) individually are connected to the power tool housing via two connecting members. Nor does the handle assembly collectively (per the Examiner's argument) possess a first and second handle, wherein one of those two handles is connected to the power tool housing via two connecting members. Furthermore, the vibration damping elements (27) in Chang '120 are mounted to the handles (7, 5), not to the tool housing. Thus amended, Applicants believe claims 15 – 28 are novel and allowable.

Likewise, Independent Claim 29 is amended to require that the subject handle assembly include both a first handle and a second handle, and that the first and second vibration damping elements are rigidly mounted to the tool housing. So, for the same

reasons as independent Claim 15, amended independent claim 29 is distinguished over Chang '120.

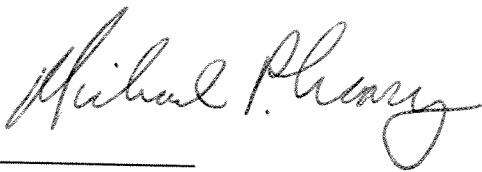
35 USC 102(b) Rejections as Anticipated by EP 0 156 387 to Minamidate

Claims 29-31 and 33-35 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by EP 0 156 387 to Minamidate.

Independent Claim 29 is amended to require "a first handle" and "a second handle" and that one of those two handles is "connected to the power tool housing via the first vibration damping element and the second vibration element" and both the first and second vibration damping elements are "rigidly mounted to the tool housing". In Minamidate '387, however, the first and second damping elements (45, 50) are not both rigidly mounted to the housing, rather element 50 is connected to the housing only via flexible element 45. Nor can it be argued (as it was regarding Chang '120) that the entire handle assembly of the embodiment in Fig. 13 of Minamidate '387 may be construed as a handle, since amended Claim 15 now requires two handles. Thus, Applicants believe amended claims 29-31 and 33-35 are novel and allowable.

Consideration of new claims 36-38 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted



Michael P. Leary
Registration No. 41,144
Attorney for Applicant(s)
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Michael Leary - TW199
The Black & Decker Corporation
701 East Joppa Road
Towson, Maryland 21286
Telephone: (410) 716-2773